

HSC INTERVIEW

CONFIDENTIAL

25 August 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Personnel

SUBJECT : Interviews with the [redacted] and [redacted] NSC Detailees, and Staff Member of the House Select Committee on Intelligence

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1. On 22 August 1975, I accompanied the [redacted] to their respective interviews in the Rayburn Building with Ms. Emily Sceketoﬀ, Investigator on the staff of the House Select Committee on Intelligence. Also in attendance were Mrs. Jeanne Davis, Staff Secretary to the National Security Council, and Miss Michael Shaffer, a Committee secretary, who took shorthand notes. The line of Ms. Sceketoﬀ's questioning was essentially the same as in the interview with [redacted] on 20 August, with the following additional queries:

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Who else besides your supervisor is in your immediate office and from which agencies are they detailed? As each interviewee replied, Ms. Sceketoﬀ checked off names from a typewritten list.

Do you routinely place calls for your boss(es) to CIA or any other organization? Only [redacted] responded affirmatively. When asked which persons she called in CIA, she replied "a [redacted]". She could not answer where in CIA he is assigned; Mrs. Davis identified [redacted] as an NIO for the Middle East.

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Are you aware of any tapping or bugging in NSC? All replies were negative. [redacted] giggled when she answered and Ms. Sceketoﬀ sternly said: "Don't laugh. This is how we found out about Watergate".)

Do you know of any surveillance of White House, NSC or other Government staff members? All replies were negative.

As I read from a list of names (3 pages), tell me which ones you know and which ones you believe to be detailees from CIA to NSC. Each person did as asked. [redacted] remarked that she had been at NSC only since July and thus knew very few people; the other two ladies identified most detailees except for those assigned to the Situation Room.

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Can you name any former detailees? Only [redacted] identified one, [redacted] Mrs. Davis interjected that [redacted] had at one time been a detailee, then had transferred to the NSC Staff, and currently is an Assistant Secretary of State.

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Did you receive any briefings from CIA or NSC about reporting back to the Agency or keeping in touch with anyone? Each interviewee responded negatively. I noted that each new detailee is advised to report to my office her time and attendance on a bi-weekly schedule, changes in address, personal travel itineraries, etc. Mrs. Davis added that any detailee is free to request reassignment to the Agency and in that event would deal with me also. It was made clear that non-administrative matters are handled and controlled exclusively by NSC.

The [redacted] were asked several questions about whether they had ever participated in or overheard discussions relative to domestic political influence on NSC Staff members, their papers, recommendations, etc. Each responded "no". (After the meeting, Mrs. Davis expressed unhappiness with this line of questioning, and said she intended to ask Mr. Buchen to protest to Mr. Field.)

[redacted] was asked whether she had "ever placed as many as two telephone calls from (her) boss to the same individual outside of NSC in the last six months". She replied that she probably had but could not think of any names.

2. The interviews lasted from 20 to 40 minutes. More emphasis was placed on trying to establish frequency, nature, and points of contact with CIA. My impression of Ms. Scekotoff was reinforced: she does not know how to conduct an interview properly; her questions are poorly phrased and sometimes so convoluted that they are unclear; she lacks sufficient fundamental information about CIA and NSC on which to base proper lines of questioning. During the return drive to EOB, Mrs. Davis and I agreed in our concern about what Ms. Scekotoff thinks she knows and learned from the interviews.

3. [redacted] was ill and her interview will be re-scheduled when she returns from sick leave.

[redacted]
Chief, Clerical/Staffing Branch

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